

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 35 and 36 remain in the application for prosecution. Claims 22-34 have been cancelled. Submitted herewith is a clean set of pending claims. The Applicant confirms that the inventorship for the remaining claims has not changed.

The Applicant provisionally elects the invention of Group I, which includes claims 1-10, 21, 35 and 36. The Applicant makes this election, however, with traverse. It is the Applicant's belief that the claims of Group I should be grouped with the claims of Group II as the two are directed to closely related subject matter. As noted in MPEP § 806.05, related inventions "may be" subject to a restriction requirement, and the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to combine the claims of Group I and Group II.

In essence, the claims of Group II are directed to an apparatus that performs the process of method claim 1 within Group I. The Applicant notes that had he simply changed the term "computer" in claim 11 to "terminal," then claim 1 of Group I and claim 11 of Group II would have been nearly identical. Further, apparatus claim 11 is nearly identical to apparatus claim 21 in Group I. The functions to be performed by the microprocessor in claim 11 are nearly identical to the steps of claim 1 or the elements of claim 21.

The claims in these two groups seem to be so closely related that the burden on the Examiner of combining these two groups is minimal, compared to the burden on the Applicant for paying for and maintaining two patents on subject matter that is so closely related. The Applicant recognizes that the Examiner is given much deference in these situations when rendering a restriction requirement. The Applicant has cancelled claims in Groups III, IV and V and these claims may be pursued in continuing applications. The Applicant, however, respectfully requests that the Examiner combine Groups I and II.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes the claims are allowable over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,



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